

[4 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon;

(c) whether Government have decided to constitute a high-level Committee to resolve this issue;

(d) if so, whether the social service organisations are also proposed to be included in this Committee; and

(e) by when the Committee would be constituted and would submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Sex ratio in India has declined over the century from 972 in 1901 to 927 in 1991. The sex ratio has since gone up to 933 in 2001. In contrast the child sex ratio for the age group of 0-6 years in 2001 is 927 girls per thousand boys against 945 recorded in 1991 Census.

(b) Amendment to the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 to make it more comprehensive has been carried out in 2003. A number of measures both for strict implementation of the Act as well as for creating awareness on the issue has been undertaken by the Government.

(c) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (H&FW) to examine various amendments/revisions to Act to make its implementation more effective and various issues related to it has been constituted.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Committee would present its report in the next meeting of Central Supervisory Board likely to be held in June 2007.

Burns Department in Safdarjung Hospital

3288. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Burns Department in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi is the only one in Northern India which has now become a paradise of rats and cockroaches;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering a few more burns departments in other hospitals in northern India which would not be infested with rats and cockroaches; and

(c) if not, the reasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Adequate measures are undertaken to maintain the desired standard of cleanliness, sanitation and housekeeping in the Burns Ward of Safdarjung Hospital. Health is a state subject, it is for the state government to ensure to provide the treatment facilities to patients.

Infant deaths

3289. DR. K. MALAISAMY Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the highest in the world in the number of births and infant deaths and in each year 16 lakh infants die and out of which 11 lakh die during the first month of birth;

(b) if so, what are the major killers during the first 12 months; and

(c) what are the major measures taken to get over this problems of infant mortality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As per the State of World's Children, 2006, brought out by UNICEF India is the highest in the world in terms of absolute numbers of births and infant deaths. It is fact that 16 lakh infants die each year and out of which 11 lakh die during the first month of birth.

(b) The major killers during the first year of birth are Acute Respiratory Infection, Diarrhoea, Sepsis, Prematurity, Low Birth Weight, Measles, Malaria and Asphyxia.

(c) Major measures undertaken to get over the problem of infant mortality are implementation of the Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) strategy, which adopts a holistic approach to the management of the commonest causes of neonatal and childhood